REMARKS

Claims 1-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Massena et al. (U.S. 6,035,119) in view of Lindhorst et al. (U.S. 6,067,541). Applicant respectfully disagrees. For example, claim 1 recites in combination with its other limitations that a first control is used within a software application that does not natively support design time controls. To be able to utilize features of a design time control within a software application environment that does not support design time controls, claim 1 requires that a second control be created based upon information associated with the first control and that the second control be a design time control. Because the second control is a design time control, a user can use design time control features to modify one or more property values of the second control. The modified values of the design time control are then used to update the values of the first control which operates within an environment that does not support design time controls.

In contrast, both the Massena and Lindhorst references only describe software application environments that directly support design time controls. As an illustration, Massena in col. 4, lines 17-27 teaches:

> The present invention, however, may be implemented generally within any number of computer applications including generally any software development tool for the authoring of text and computer-executable code. In the context of developing web pages, the present invention provides web content developers a tool for authoring hypertext markup language (HTML) text and script. In this context, the present invention may be implemented within an authoring tool such as, for example, Visual C++, Visual InterDev and Visual J++ by Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Wash.

The examples (e.g., Visual C++ and Visual J++) cited in this excerpt are application environments that allow design time controls to be used. The Massena reference mentions that the techniques disclosed in Massena may be implemented generally within

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any number of computer applications. However the reference does not teach, disclose or suggest how design time controls can be utilized within application environments that do not natively support design time controls, let alone the specific method to allow such support as recited in claim 1. The excerpt does not even raise the question of an application environment that does not support design time controls. A reference to general applicability without raising the problem (or even a solution such as the one recited in claim 1) for handling application environments that do not directly support design time controls cannot render obvious the specific approach of claim 1 that does address and solve that problem.

As another example of the significant differences between claim 1 and the cited references, claim 1 recites in combination with its other limitations that property values of a first control are used to create a second control (i.e., a design time control); the modified values of the second control are then used to update the values of the first control. In contrast, the Lindhorst reference does not teach, suggest or motivate such an approach. While the Lindhorst reference may disclose that information from one control can be incorporated into another control, the reference does not disclose that the other control then provides its information back to the original control:

> In particular, when the reference is added, the design-time control of the first page, in one embodiment, locates the design-time control of the second page. Next, the first design-time control instantiates the second page's design-time control and ask [sic] for a description of the second page's objects. The information returned from the second page's design-time control is finally incorporated into the first page's design time control.
> [(the Lindhorst reference, col. 19, lines 60-67)]

Because of such differences and others, claim 1 is patentable over the cited references and accordingly is allowable.

Claim 22 recites in combination with its other limitations that a first control is used within a software application that does not natively support design time controls. In contrast, both the Massena and Lindhorst references only describe software application environments that directly support design time controls. Because of such differences and others, claim 22 is patentable over the cited references and accordingly is allowable.
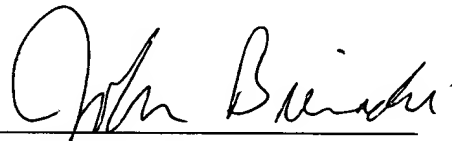
CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-46 and newly added claim 47 are allowable. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this responsive amendment and to pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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